

SARAH E. WARD.

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MAY 25, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. CASTLE, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 7595.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7595) granting a pension to Sarah E. Ward, have examined the same and the evidence relating thereto and respectfully report:

This bill as amended proposes to pension at \$12 per month Sarah E. Ward, of 179 West Eighty-eighth street, New York City, formerly the widow of William H. Wilson. This soldier enlisted May 21, 1861, as sergeant in Company I, Eighty-second New York Volunteers, and died in the service March 22, 1863, of typhoid fever. It is shown that he was a physician, and at the battle of Bull Run and at times thereafter his professional services were called into requisition, and he acted as surgeon in caring for sick and wounded soldiers. Such service was recognized subsequently to his death, and an act of Congress was passed in 1866 to pension this claimant as his widow at the rank of first lieutenant or assistant surgeon.

A claim was filed by her under the general law, established and admitted, and she was pensioned at \$8 per month from the date of the soldier's death to the date of commencement of her pension under special act, and also was allowed pension during the period that she had drawn pension under special act of \$2 per month for a minor child.

January 26, 1875, claimant was remarried to William H. Ward, and the minor child drew the pension from that time until she reached the age of 16 years. She thereby abandoned her special pension.

Claimant's second husband, Ward, died April 17, 1889, and it is shown that claimant is now 63 years of age, without means, and dependent for a home upon one who is not bound by law to support her. She is not entitled to over \$12, which is the rate now allowed widows of her class under the general law.

The bill is therefore reported back with the recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

In line 3, after the word "is," insert "authorized and."

From lines 5 and 6 strike out the words "acting surgeon, United States Volunteers," and insert in lieu thereof "sergeant, Company I, Eighty-second New York Volunteer Infantry."

In line 6 strike out the words "of the United States" and insert in lieu thereof the words "and pay her a pension."

In line 7 strike out the word "seventeen" and insert in lieu thereof the word "twelve."

Strike out all after the word "month," in line 7.

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting a pension to Sarah E. Ward."

*To the honorable the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States:*

Your petitioner, Sarah E. Ward, formerly Wilson, respectfully represents:

That she is the widow of William H. Wilson, late surgeon, United States Volunteers. That, as will appear by a report of the Senate Committee on Pensions (S. 252), made on April 6, 1866, her late husband "was sergeant of Company I, Eighty-second Regiment New York Volunteers; that he was a practicing physician and surgeon of good standing in his profession; that at the battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861, he was detailed to act in his professional capacity on the field; that while so acting he was taken prisoner until the fall of that year, when he was paroled and returned to his home; that at the battle of Antietam, being still unexchanged, he reported to the proper authorities at Washington in his professional capacity, and was sent to the battlefield to assist in caring for the wounded; that he discharged that duty faithfully and well, and while in the discharge thereof contracted the disease whereof he died March 22, 1863.

"The committee report the accompanying bill and recommend its passage."

That under a report of such committee such bill was passed by the Senate on April 13, 1866, granting her a pension of \$17 per month, which pension was terminated by her remarriage to William H. Ward on January 26, 1875. That said Ward died on April 12, 1889.

Your petitioner is now 63 years of age, without means, and dependent for a home upon one who is not bound by law to support her. That she again feels the need of the support of her former husband, Surgeon Wilson. That he sacrificed his life by volunteer service on the battlefield of Antietam, and, as the Senate committee found, "while in the discharge thereof contracted the disease whereof he died March 22, 1863."

That your petitioner submits that her case is an exceptional and an anomalous one; that by the patriotic and ungrudging spirit displayed by her husband, not only at Antietam, but at the battle of Bull Run, where he was taken prisoner by the enemy, and where he was also acting as surgeon, she should not be allowed to suffer by the country in her old age. She therefore prays that she be granted a pension of \$17 per month as widow of William H. Wilson, late acting surgeon, United States Volunteers, to commence from the passage of the bill and to continue during her widowhood.

And your petitioner will continue to pray, etc.

SARAH E. WARD, *Widow.*

(Pension certificate.)

(Address, 183 West Eighty-seventh street, New York.)